

Relationship between Religion and Health Status among Drug Abuse Inmates: The Mediating Role of Life Satisfaction

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Abstract

In Malaysia, it was reported that a total of 49,200 inmates were imprisoned in 2015. Out of this figure, 42 per cent (20664) inmates were drug abusers. It was reported that majority of drug abuse inmates' health status was lower compared to the general community because of the living environment in the prison. The drug abuse inmate's health status had to be addressed in order to help them to reintegrate into the community and get jobs to support themselves when they were released from the prisons. Studies also reported that drug abuser found to be having lower life satisfaction, which was reflected in the high rate of depression, than those who do not used drugs. The same circumstance was believed to be also true among imprisoned drug abuser. Addressing life satisfaction among drug abuse inmates would help them to improve their health status. It was reported that religion had a significant influence on drug abuse inmate's life satisfaction and health status. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to examine inmate's perceived religious knowledge and life satisfaction, and their associations to the health status. Self-administered questionnaires were distributed to drug abuse inmates at several prisons in Malaysia identified using area sampling representing north, south, central and east region. The selection of the respondents was conducted using simple random sampling method. The instrument comprised of sections measuring religion, life satisfaction and health status. The research hypotheses were tested using Structural Equation Modelling (SEM). The findings of the study would uncover a positive relationship between religion and health status. In addition, life satisfaction plays the mediating role in the relationship between religion and health status. Moreover, the study would provide insightful information and strategies pertaining to the different aspects of religion and life satisfaction that would improve the drug abuse inmate health status.

Keywords: Religion, Health Status, Life Satisfaction and Drug Abuse Inmates